

Corporation for National and Community Service

DISASTER SERVICES UPDATE 7/18/12

More than 245 national service members are deployed throughout the country, assisting communities affected by severe weather and wildfires. These members are providing volunteer and donations management, 2-1-1 call center support, cooling station support and direct fire response service. Please read on for additional information.

TROPICAL STORM DEBBY

In late June, Tropical Storm Debby caused widespread flooding in Florida's panhandle and northern Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, FL

NEW CNCS Cadre

July 16th

Bill Dillon, CNCS Washington State Office and April Bazzi, AmeriCorps NCCC, deployed as CNCS Disaster Cadre members under a FEMA Mission Assignment, to Tallahassee, FL, to work with Volunteer Florida to identify needs and determine where National Service solutions can be leveraged to assist Florida recover from the effects of Tropical Storm Debby. This deployment will end on July 30th.

MONTANA WILDFIRES

Wildfires in Montana have forced evacuation for many residents of Roundup, MT (Musselshell County). To date, 223 structures have been lost, including 73 residences and 150 other buildings

ROUNDUP, MT

NEW Montana Conservation Corps

June 28th

A seven member team from Montana Conservation Corps based in Billings, MT was deployed to Roundup, MT to repair fences and fell potentially dangerous trees. This team has ended their deployment but the program may be sending additional teams to the area in the near future.

RSVP

June 28th

20 RSVP volunteers (CERT Trained) are serving in and supporting the Department of Emergency Services Office in Roundup. Other RSVP volunteers are assisting those that have been evacuated find places to stay. This same area flooded just one year ago.

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MISSOURI WILDFIRES

Increased fire weather has been intensified by extreme heat in Missouri over the past week, with daily temperatures ranging from 102-108 degrees accompanied by very low humidity and fuel moisture. On June 29th, Governor Nixon "ordered the activation of the *State Emergency Operations Center* in response to fires and a prolonged period of record heat and low precipitation across Missouri."

BIXBY AND HIGDON, MO

AmeriCorps St. Louis

July 3rd

25 AmeriCorps St. Louis fire crew have been deployed to assist the US Forest Service in suppressing two wildfires in the east central part of Missouri near the towns of Bixby and Higdon, MO. Nineteen of these members provided initial attack and mop up support on the 622 acre East End Fire and the 48 acre Madison Fire, both of which are now controlled. An additional 6 member crew remained on fire standby through Sunday in the Southwest portion of the state to provide additional Initial Attack resources.

In addition to wildfire response, AmeriCorps St. Louis has been working with local urban partners in St. Louis to combat heat related illness that often effects the senior and homeless populations. Wellness checks have been performed and cooling resources (water and electrolyte drinks) are being distributed throughout the city.

WESTERN WILDFIRES

Approximately 200 AmeriCorps members and RSVP volunteers have been deployed to fight wildfires, manage volunteers and donations, operate emergency shelters, and support call centers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. Members of AmeriCorps NCCC, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps State & National, and RSVP programs are working with federal, state, and local government agencies, the American Red Cross, the United Way, Adventist Community Services, and other organizations. Additional teams are being deployed as conditions evolve.

COLORADO WILDFIRES

GREELY, CO

AmeriCorps VISTA

June 27th

Four AmeriCorps VISTAs are staffing the United Way of Weld County 211 Call Center. These members are directing callers to resources available for those affected by wildfires in the area.

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region

June 27th

Team Sun 2, a nine member team has sent half their team to the town of Divide to assist with shelter evacuation. The other half of the team is in Colorado Springs assisting with shelter evacuations. They have also been assigned by the Red Cross to assist the Humane Society with large animal evacuation in Colorado Springs. Sun 2 is expected to end this deployment on July 19th.

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AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region

May 14th

Team Fire 4, a nine member team has been deployed to the El Paso County Sheriff's Office to assist with the Waldo Canyon fire. Fire 4 has been providing structure protection, cutting fire break line, cutting trees and putting out spot fires. Fire 4 should be expected to be deployed until 7/19/12.

FORT COLLINS, CO

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region

July 4th

Sun 3, a ten member team, has been deployed to the El Paso County Sheriff's office to assist with ongoing wildfires in the area. Sun 3 is expected to be deployed until July 19th.

Metro Volunteers VISTA

June 28th

An AmeriCorps VISTA is working through the Governor's Commission (Serve Colorado) assisting in the High Park Fire, working closely with Colorado VOAD and Emergency Managers as a liaison. This VISTA is using the capacity that she helped build through her regular VISTA duties. In addition, she's working as the CVCN representative as well as the COVOAD liaison at the EOC. Her work for CVCN has been to respond to agencies requesting volunteers. She provides CVCN with information gathered through www.HelpColoradoNow.org and AidMatrix. Her work for COVOAD has been to facilitate communication between the Emergency Managers and the COVOAD agencies. She's providing status information on daily update calls on behalf of COVOAD and CVCN.

VISTA

June 28th

An AmeriCorps VISTA has been actively supporting 2-1-1 Colorado's response to the High Park Fire since June 10th. Her primary work has been to facilitate accurate information sharing between the Joint Information Center and the 2-1-1 Call Centers, and acting as the liaison between 2-1-1 and local and state partners. This VISTA member has also played a key role in linking responding local non-profits to COVOAD in order to allow those organizations to utilize donations and volunteer offers that are coming forth from the community. This member has coordinated logistics for the Joint Information Center, actively represented 2-1-1 at the State Operations, DCT/VCT, and Recovery Meetings, and has worked with COVOAD to ensure the www.helpcoloradnow.org website is updated and accurate. She also has trained and supported volunteers working at the United Way of Larimer County 2-1-1 Call Center to assist with answering the phones. The planning and preparedness work that this member accomplished in the months leading up to this crisis have proven significantly helpful in addressing coordination efforts in response to the High Park Fire and other wildfires occurring across Colorado.

RSVP

June 27th

RSVP members from 4 partner agencies: Salvation Army of Fort Collins, American Red Cross Centennial Chapter, United Way of Larimer County and Catholic Charities of Denver, (a roughly estimated 100 members) are assisting with volunteer and donations management, assisting with Elbert County tornado and wildfire events. Some RSVP members are also assisting in Colorado

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Springs COVOAD response. They are hosting 1-2 state conference calls a day for fire updates and disaster recovery planning.

*United Way of Larimer County AmeriCorps State Program
June 27th*

Four AmeriCorps State members are assisting with 2-1-1 Call Center support. This call center is helping those affected by surrounding wildfires to access support resources.

*AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region
June 19th*

Water 5, a twelve member team from AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Campus has been deployed to Fort Collins, CO to support the American Red Cross Mile High Chapter. Water 5 will be supporting sheltering operations for evacuees from the High Park wildfire that has forced many residents from their homes. The team will also be distributing comfort and clean-up kits, client casework and supporting logistical operations. Water 5 will be deployed for two weeks.

NEW DISASTER EVENTS

For information on new disaster events, please visit FEMA's daily situation report at:

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

Resources

How to Engage Your Community in Service Projects Year Round

[View Webinar Recording](#)

[Download Presentation \(33-page PDF\)](#)

Webinar Overview

On Tuesday, July 10, FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division and Ready.gov presented a FREE Webinar about the importance of community service and how you can host your own event to prepare your community for any disaster or emergency event. CNCS's Director of Disaster Services and the Montana Commission were featured speakers on this call. During the presentation, the speakers discussed activities and events you can organize in your own community during National Preparedness Month 2012 and beyond and also talked about partners you can work with to make your event a success.

Colorado Wildfire Assistance

For those interested in assisting those affected by the wildfires in Colorado, please visit: www.HelpColoradoNow.org. This website identifies ways to donate time or resources to those in need.

If you would like to learn more about how you can assist communities affected by disaster visit www.serve.gov or <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/howtohelp.shtm>. If you would like to learn more about how to prepare your family and or community please visit www.ready.gov.